

Frederick County Sustainability Commission

Meeting Minutes for

10/21/2015

FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Susan Weber, Robert Black, Annie Jones, Tim Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Chris May, Joe Richardson, Mike Swanson, Mike Uecker, Jerry Donald (County Council)

OSER: Lisa Orr

Public: Kevin Sellner

Welcome – Introductory Comments:

- The Chair (Tom Anderson) welcomed all FCSC attendees and the guest and outlined the intent of the meeting.
- The Chair noted that the three FCSC focus areas in FY 2015 were waste management, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. It was unanimously agreed by the Commission that the focus areas for FY 2016 will be comprehensive planning and energy efficiency.
- The Chair announced that, based on the FCSC members' voting at the end of the last meeting, he would continue as Chair during FY 2016 and that Susan Weber would be the new Vice Chair.
- The Vice Chair noted that the September 2015 meeting minutes were previously distributed. They were unanimously approved.
- The Vice Chair distributed handouts listing proposed FCSC site visits to observe sustainability practices in use. She asked that members add their suggestions to the list and indicate the sites they were interested in visiting. She requested those responses by October 21, 2015. The suggestion was made to revise the name to "field trips" to be more clear as to purpose. They will be referred to as field trips in the future.
- The Vice Chair advised that she had talked to Shannon Moore about the FCSC having an intern to help with preparing postings to its web site. The plan is to have the person work 6 to 8 hours per week, starting in the spring semester. The Vice Chair will meet weekly with the intern to set goals, answer questions, provide encouragement and assess progress.

Committee Reports and Discussion:

FCSC Sustainability Plan

- The Chair advised that the Vice Chair will head the Sustainability Plan Committee. Other committee members are: Ron Kaltenbaugh, Annie Jones, and Joe Richardson. The 2009 County Resolution establishing the Commission as well as the Commission's Bylaws require that the Commission "develop a Sustainability Plan for Frederick County." The Commission shall annually review that plan and provide a written report with recommendations to the County Executive. The Committee will explore three Sustainability Plan options for consideration by the County Executive. They are: a plan for Commission activities; a plan for internal County operations; and a plan for the entire County. If it is to be a community

plan, we will need to engage the community. The STAR community index could be looked at. It's a nonprofit certification program. This would require buy in from county leadership. The Committee will develop scope options for the County Executive to decide on and include in her charge to the Commission. The Plan could have a narrower scope if it doesn't include what the Comprehensive Plan and the Waste Management Plans address. The Commission could provide its expertise to aid the County in its comprehensive planning process. The Committee will meet before the next Commission meeting.

FCSC Spot Recognition Certificates:

The Chair asked members to look for nominees.

Debrief on Sustainability Event at FCC on 10/16/15:

It was widely agreed that the event was successful, even with the small attendance by members of the public. It was the Commission's first public event and there were lessons learned. Shannon Moore will provide feedback from the course review forms at our next meeting. The FCSC intern, together with County staff, will assemble and post the presentations and Roundtable results on the FCSC web site. For future event, the Commission will need to get public input during the planning process. The Commission could partner with the Frederick City green team. Hood College could host future events. Another committee would be needed to plan future events.

Solid Waste Management Options Study Update

There are six public forums coming up, with the first one to be held on Nov. 9 at Winchester Hall. The purpose of the forums is to solicit public input and to describe where the County is now in terms of the current solid waste management situation. All will have the opportunity to provide input after brief opening presentations. These are not public hearings. It will be possible for members of the public to send in comment cards after the forums are held.

OSER Updates:

- Lisa Orr described the proposal for a solar facility at the County landfill. A solar array for the transfer station had been proposed earlier, but the financing didn't work out. OSER is not involved in this project.
- Update on PACE commercial energy lending program: Residential real estate owners didn't like the program in California. Shannon continues to work on this effort.
- The Power Savers retrofit will do 120 houses this year. OSER will apply for a \$1M grant next year. It is very likely that application will be approved. There are 24 people on the waiting list for next year.

Water Body Buffer Bill:

Jerry Donald wants a better water body buffer than is currently in the County ordinance. He would like to get as many structures, non-natural surfaces out of the buffer as possible, unless there is an appeal for an exception. His bill will not undo current situations, e.g. Pinecliff Park. However, if a trail is added there are anywhere else, it must use a pervious surface. There will be a public hearing on the bill on 11/3/15. At this point it's not feasible to expand the ordinance back to what it once was. However, this approach seems to be reasonable to restore some of the previous protections. The

Commission could support this bill, perhaps even requesting that it go further. Members could testify at the public hearing and/or the FCSC could send a letter of support.

Commission Members Items of Interest:

- Ron K. had 16 people at his house with a lot of good questions for the Tour of Solar and Green Homes October 3-4. New Market is looking to start a Green Team; we need a comprehensive list of County Green Teams. The FCSC should send a letter to all county municipalities to provide a liaison to the FCSC. OSER may have information as to which towns have green teams.
- Mike S. suggested that the Commission consider holding evening meetings during the week to encourage more public involvement. Need to ask Shannon. Community volunteers should be invited to join FCSC committees.
- Annie J.: Need info regarding the Maryland award for STEM education.
- Chris M. advised that the 30 percent tax credit for solar projects may be extended by Congress.
- Bob B. informed members of sustainability practices in use at Catoctin Mountain Orchard. They include changing lighting, having cars park on the grass, and pick your own apples.
- Jerry D. advised that the County Council is considering issues related to growing medical marijuana in the County. The County Zoning Administrator has rules that it's a pharmaceutical and can't be grown in an agricultural zone. Growing this product may be a sustainability issue.

Public comments:

- Kevin Sellner asked how the County government responds to Commission recommendations. The answer was that the Commission has no authority but offers the benefits of its expertise.

Action Items:

- 10-1. Focus areas for FY 2016: comprehensive planning and energy efficiency.
- 10-2. Field trips: Shannon Moore will begin scheduling.
- 10-3. Intern: Annie Jones to plan on getting intern from local college starting in spring semester to work for FCSC 4 to 6 hours per week. Shannon to look for space in her offices.
- 10-4. Sustainability Plan: SP Committee to develop three options for decision by County Executive. [Since meeting, this has been put on hold until the November meeting when the County's Comprehensive Planner will discuss the role of sustainability planning in the development of the County's new comprehensive plan.]
- 10-5. Spot recognition certificates: Members to look for nominees.
- 10-6. Sustainability Event of 10/16/15: Shannon to provide feedback from course review forms for next meeting. Presentations and Roundtable results to be posted on web site (by intern?)
- 10-7. Water body buffer bill: Commission to decide on whether to support, and if so, how.
- 10-8. County Green Teams: Need to assemble a comprehensive list that includes all municipalities with teams and contact information shown. FCSC to send a letter inviting liaisons from the teams to attend FCSC meetings.
- 10-9. FCSC evening meetings: Shannon is looking into feasibility and logistics.
- 10-10. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join

FCSC closed session: A motion was made by Joe Richardson, seconded by Mike Uecker and unanimously agreed by the members to fill the one current vacancy on the Commission by recommending Kevin Sellner for the position. The Chair will contact David Lange regarding his plans to resign. The motion and vote included the provision that if David does resign, the Commission will vote by email about filling his vacancy with Jennifer Bird. [Both David's resignation and a positive affirmative vote for Jennifer have since occurred. Shannon has forwarded the Commission's recommendations for these two appointments to the County Executive's [CE] office for appointment by the CE and confirmation by the County Council.]

Adjourn: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the chair thanked all for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.